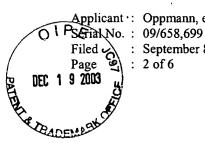
Attorney's Docket No.: 16622-005001 / DX01042X



Applicant: Oppmann, et al.

September 8, 2000

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 51-62 are currently pending prior to the amendments.

Claims 51-62 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 63-73 are being added.

After the amendments, claims 63-73 will be pending.

Listing of Claims:

1.-62. Canceled.

- 63. (New) A method for preparing a binding compound that comprises an antigen binding site from an antibody, wherein said antibody binds to:
- (i) a mammalian IL-B30/p40 complex comprising an IL-B30 subunit (SEQ ID NO:2 or 4) and a p40 subunit of human or murine origin, or
- (ii) a fusion protein comprising the IL-B30 subunit and the p40 subunit: said method comprising:
 - preparing candidate antibodies by using the IL-B30/p40 complex or a polypeptide (a) that comprises at least 11 contiguous amino acids from the p40 subunit and at least 11 contiguous amino acids from the IL-B30 subunit, and
 - (b) determining the specificity of the candidate antibodies using the IL-B30/p40 complex or fusion protein, thereby identifying said antibody.
- 64. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein said binding compound is a humanized antibody, monoclonal antibody, single chain antibody, Fv fragment, Fab fragment, Fab' fragment, or F(ab')2 fragment.
- 65. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein said binding compound is a neutralizing antibody.

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66. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein the fusion protein comprises, from the N-terminus to the C-terminus, mature IL-12 p40, a linker, and mature IL-B30.

- 67. (New) The method of claim 63 further comprising the step of selecting antibodies that bind to the IL-B30/p40 complex or fusion protein but not the IL-B30 or p40 subunit alone.
- 68. (New) The method of claim 63 further comprising the step of depleting antibodies that bind to the IL-B30 or p40 subunit alone.
- 69. (New) A method of preparing a binding compound that specifically binds to:
- (i) a mammalian IL-B30/p40 complex comprising an IL-B30 subunit (SEQ ID NO:2 or 4) and a p40 subunit of human or murine origin, or
- (ii) a fusion protein comprising the IL-B30 subunit and the p40 subunit; wherein the binding compound does not bind the IL-B30 or p40 subunit alone, said method comprising selecting said binding compound from candidate binding compounds that bind to the IL-B30/p40 complex or fusion protein.
- 70. (New) The method of claim 69 wherein said binding compound is selected by immunoselection or immunodepletion.
- 71. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein said binding compound is a humanized antibody, monoclonal antibody, single chain antibody, Fv fragment, Fab fragment, Fab' fragment, or F(ab')2 fragment.
- 72. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein said binding compound is a neutralizing antibody.
- 73. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein the fusion protein comprises, from the N-terminus to the C-terminus, mature IL-12 p40, a linker, and mature IL-B30.